

Message Text

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11 10

ACTION IO-14

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O 070912Z JUN 74

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6313

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EO 11652 NA

TAGS AORG (ICRC)

SUBJ USG GRANTS TO ICRC-PLANNED AUDIT BY USAID

1. ICRC DIRECTOR OPERATIONS HOCKE CALLED AT MISSION JUNE 6 TO DISCUSS USAID'S PLANS FOR AUDIT OF ICRC RECORDS AND DOCUMENTATION RELATING TO USG GRANTS TO ICRC FOR BANGLADESH REFUGEE RELIEF OPERATIONS.
2. HOCKE HAD COPY OF LETTER DATED MAY 17 TO ICRC PRESIDENT ROGER GALLOPIN FROM GUSS NOLAN, DIRECTOR POPULATION PLANNING AND HEALTH DIVISION, OFFICE OF AUDIT, USAID ANNOUNCING ARRIVAL IN GENEVA OF MESSRS. CHAVES AND STEVENS ON JUNE 10 TO UNDERTAKE ABOVE-MENTIONED AUDIT.
3. HOCKE EXPRESSED ICRC'S SURPRISE OVER THIS DEVELOPMENT AND EXPLAINED THAT ICRC, A NEUTRAL IMPARTIAL BODY OF INTERNATIONAL CHARACTER, DOES NOT NORMALLY OPEN ITS BOOKS TO DONOR GOVERNMENTS. IN FACT, HOCKE SAID, NO DONOR GOVERNMENTS HAD EVER BEFORE REQUESTED PERMISSION TO CONDUCT AN AUDIT AT ICRC.
4. HOCKE HASTENED TO ADD THAT ICRC OF COURSE WISHES TO CO-OPERATE WITH THE USG TO MAXIMUM REASONABLE EXTENT WITHOUT ESTABLISHING A PRECEDENT WHICH MIGHT CREATE DIFFICULTIES FOR THEIR COMMITTEE. THIS REGARD, HOCKE OFFERED MAKE AVAILABLE TO MISSION COPY OF REPORT OF EXTERNAL AUDITORS (PEAT, MARWICK, MITCHELL & CO.) ON ICRC'S OPERATIONS IN BANGLADESH.

5. VIEW ICRC'S UNIQUE VALUE TO USG THROUGH ITS FREQUENTLY

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DEMONSTRATED ABILITY OPERATE IN DELICATE SITUATIONS AND AREAS

CLOSED TO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS WHERE IMPORTANT U.S. INTERESTS AT STAKE, MISSION QUESTIONS ADVISABILITY OF PURSUING THIS AUDIT AND THUS RUNNING RISK OF JEOPARDIZING OUR EXCELLENT RELATIONSHIP WITH ICRC.

6. APART FROM CONSIDERATIONS INDICATED ABOVE, MISSION FEELS LETTER FROM NOLAN TO GALLOPIN MIGHT MORE APPROPRIATELY HAVE BEEN ROUTED VIA THIS MISSION.

7. PLEASE ADVISE.ABRAMS

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